Tax Act and evolve ideas for more focused spending on genuine scientific research activities.

(b) and (c) The audit reports of CAG on Income Tax have not included any findings on fraudulent claims under the scheme of weighted deduction of 150 per cent under section 35(2AB) of the Income Tax Act for R&D in pharma industry. However, the audit report nos. 13 of 2003 and 13 of 2005 have featured comments on under-assessment of income due to irregular allowance of ineligible weighted deduction under section 35(2AB) of Income Tax Act, in respect of some companies. The names of these companies are M/s Amrutanjan Ltd., Chennai, M/s Lupin Ltd., Mumbai, M/s Cipla Ltd., Mumbai and M/s Nicholas Piramal India Ltd., Mumbai.

Agreements on science and technology

3916. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Canada have decided to sign comprehensive agreements on science and technology to give a boost to research activities in both the countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to have another agreement with Canada for transfer of technology from laboratories?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. India and Canada have concluded an inter-governmental agreement at Toronto on 18th November, 2005 facilitating scientific and technological cooperation.

(b) The cooperation is envisaged through joint research and development activities; facilitation of commercially viable research and development; pooling of research and development projects, already underway within each Party, into Joint Research Activities; visits and exchanges of scientists, technical experts and academics; exchanges and loans of equipment and materials; exchanges of information on practices, laws, regulations and programmes relevant to the Cooperative Activities undertaken pursuant to this Agreement; organization of scientific

seminars, conferences and workshops as well as participation of experts in those activities; demonstrations of technologies and application development; etc.

(c) No separate agreement is envisaged at present as the present agreement is a comprehensive one covering all aspects of scientific cooperation, including technology transfer.

Policy on Stem Cell Research

3917. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking of formulating a policy on Stem Cell Research;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India is taking any assistance or help from the US on Stem Cell Research; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, "National Guidelines for Stem Cell Research and Therapy" is being formulated jointly by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Department of Biotechnology (DBT). Drafting committee has formulated the draft guidelines and the same will be put on the ICMR website to elicit response from all the stakeholders. Following this the guidelines would be finalized.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. India is not taking any assistance from US on Stem Cell Research. US has shown keen interest in collaborating with India in the area of stem cell research. The Draft Policy document was sent to National Institutes of Health (NIH), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for suggestions. The comments received from NIH have been taken into consideration along with other comments. The programme on stem cell research has also been discussed with US experts.